



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
SEVEN-TIME CONVICTED FELON PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a seven-time convicted felon pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing body armor. The guilty plea, Graves said, is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Lee M. Johnson, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 12, 2005, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Johnson** admitted that he was in possession of Safariland body armor on May 26, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of body armor. **Johnson** has 2005 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon, three 2003 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance, unlawful use of a weapon and aggravated battery, and 2002 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow